

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7848 of November 23, 2004

National Family Week, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Strong families are the foundation of our society. They provide stability for our citizens and instill responsibility and values in our children. During National Family Week, we underscore our commitment to supporting families and recognize the significance of family to our country.

Families have an important role in teaching our Nation's young people to understand the consequences of their actions and to recognize that the decisions they make today could affect the rest of their lives. In times of change, the family values of compassion, reverence, and integrity serve as steady guides. My Administration is standing with American families because children should have the opportunity to grow up in a stable home.

To help families, I was proud last month to sign the Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004. Because of this legislation, more than 90 million Americans will have a lower tax bill next year. With more of their own money, parents can save for retirement or a child's education, or invest in a home or small business. For many American families, the most valuable commodity is extra time. I have called on the Congress to give individuals the voluntary options of comp-time and flex-time as an alternative to overtime pay so that they may better juggle the demands of work and family.

As we celebrate family this week, our Nation expresses its gratitude for the families whose loved ones serve in our Armed Forces. These brave military men and women are working to defend our country and spread freedom so that all Americans are safe and secure. We pray for them and for their families. And we will always remember the courage and selfless commitment of those who have paid the ultimate price for our security and freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 21 through November 27, 2004, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and all the people of the United States to join together in observing this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and

of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7849 of November 23, 2004

Thanksgiving Day, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

All across America, we gather this week with the people we love to give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives. We are grateful for our freedom, grateful for our families and friends, and grateful for the many gifts of America. On Thanksgiving Day, we acknowledge that all of these things, and life itself, come from the Almighty God.

Almost four centuries ago, the Pilgrims celebrated a harvest feast to thank God after suffering through a brutal winter. President George Washington proclaimed the first National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, and President Lincoln revived the tradition during the Civil War, asking Americans to give thanks with “one heart and one voice.”; Since then, in times of war and in times of peace, Americans have gathered with family and friends and given thanks to God for our blessings.

Thanksgiving is also a time to share our blessings with those who are less fortunate. Americans this week will gather food and clothing for neighbors in need. Many young people will give part of their holiday to volunteer at homeless shelters and food pantries. On Thanksgiving, we remember that the true strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of the American people. By seeking out those who are hurting and by lending a hand, Americans touch the lives of their fellow citizens and help make our Nation and the world a better place.

This Thanksgiving, we express our gratitude to our dedicated firefighters and police officers who help keep our homeland safe. We are grateful to the homeland security and intelligence personnel who spend long hours on faithful watch. And we give thanks for the Americans in our Armed Forces who are serving around the world to secure our country and advance the cause of freedom. These brave men and women make our entire Nation proud, and we thank them and their families for their sacrifice.

On this Thanksgiving Day, we thank God for His blessings and ask Him to continue to guide and watch over our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 2004, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all Americans to gather together in their homes and places of worship to reinforce the ties of family and community and to express gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and